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## **Delaware Children's Department Partners with Communities to Help Children Succeed**

### **SPECIAL FOCUS ON VIOLENCE IN WILMINGTON**

Wilmington - The Delaware Children's Department, in conjunction with the Coalition to Build a Safer Community, is hosting a special evening with Reverend Eugene F. Rivers, III to bring government, community, church and prevention leaders together to see if lessons learned in Boston can help make Wilmington a safer community. Rev. Rivers co-founded the Boston Ten Point Coalition that succeeded in a striking reduction in youth violence that is known as the Boston Miracle.

"Reverend Rivers was already scheduled to present at our annual Prevention conference the next day, and the collaboration with the Coalition and the Reverend's graciousness made it possible to present this unique opportunity for the community leadership in Wilmington," said Cari DeSantis, Cabinet Secretary of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families. "Wilmington is experiencing serious violence, and we hope that Reverend Rivers' experiences will help our communities develop some strategies to address it."

"The Coalition welcomes this opportunity for its members and other concerned community members to join in proactive steps to Build a Safer Community," said Reverend Tyrone Johnson, director of Churches Take a Corner (CTAC). "There is no doubt that many people are concerned, and this evening together will help harness the positive energy to make an impact for not just the youth of our city, but for all of us."

**The evening will begin with a networking opportunity at 6:00 PM. The session with Rev. Rivers will convene at 7:00 PM on Tuesday April 26, 2005 at the Delaware Technical and Community College, 333 Shipley Street, Wilmington. While there is no charge for this event, capacity is limited, so please call (302-892-4500) to reserve a general admission seat.**